

2016 Olympic Games

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He suffered a seven hour seizure, a three day coma, and was told he would never dive again. Jill Potter led the US Women's Rugby team. Though the team did not advance, she nonetheless competed after breaking her neck at the age of 19, and overcoming cancer in 2014. Equestrian rider and two-time silver medalist William Fox-Pitt from Great Britain was in a coma just nine months ago after a bad fall during a cross-country race. This was his fifth Olympics. Perhaps the most impressive moment of the games was the sportsmanship shown by Kikki Hamblin of New Zealand and Abbey D'Agostino of the U.S. While running the 5000m race, Hamblin tripped and brought down D'Agostino. Rather than leave her fallen competitor, Hamblin helped D'Agostino finish the race. Both were awarded the prestigious Pierre de Coubertin Medal, one of only 17 ever awarded, which is bestowed by the Olympic Committee when there is a showing of true sportsmanship. While the list is impressive, it is not exhaustive. These, along with 11,000 other remarkable athletes each have their own road-to-the-Olympics story to tell.

All in all, after 17 days of fierce competition at the highest level, the Games of the XXXI Olympiad came to spectacular conclusion. All in all, the United States brought home an astonishing 121 medals, 46 gold, 37 silver and 38 bronze. This year the Olympic Games was not only impressive, it was a testament of our great nation. We fiercely competed to be the best of the best and we rose to the top with style and grace. Oh say does that star-spangled banner yet wave.

God Bless America. . . my home sweet home.



Intellectual Property Practice Group Alert Brexit: What EU Trademark Owners Should Know

Voters in the United Kingdom ("UK") recently voted in a referendum to secede from the European Union ("EU"). It is now up to the British government to invoke, or not to invoke, [Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon](#) to begin the two-year withdrawal process.

If the British government does invoke Article 50, the UK will eventually no longer be an EU member state. What does that mean to U.S. owners of EU trademarks?

The answer is that as the British government makes a decision on the invocation of Article 50, we will have more definitive information. In the meantime, the UK will remain part of the EU and EU trademarks will remain effective and enforceable in the UK.

Assuming that the British secession from the EU ("Brexit") is put into place by the British government, there will come a time when EU trademarks will no longer be enforceable in the UK, unless the British government makes transitional laws to include the seniority and enforceability of EU trademarks in the UK as of a certain date. Another alternative for the British government would be to set a deadline by which time EU trademarks must be applied for in the UK in order to maintain priority and seniority.

Three other European nations that never joined the EU are Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland. These three countries, however, are part of the European Economic Area ("EEA"). The other part of the EEA is the EU itself. Switzerland is neither an EU nor EEA member, but is part of the European single market, meaning that, at this time, Swiss nationals have the same rights to live and work in the UK as other EEA nationals.

As Brexit becomes finalized, it remains to be seen whether the UK will:

- Be (or remain) part of the EEA, or not;
- End up in the same or similar position to where Switzerland is today, with respect to other European nations; or
- Whether the UK just "goes it alone."

For Leech Tishman's clients who currently own EU trademarks, we are recommending a "wait and see" approach, to evaluate what the British government will do – if anything – over the next two years or so, to implement Brexit. Some clients, just for safety in the present situation of uncertainty, may wish to file UK trademark applications now. For clients making new trademark applications in European countries, we recommend separate applications for the EU, UK, Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein, and Iceland.

The U.S. is a party to a treaty that makes filing trademark applications in all those countries cost-effective, by way of one application for all the above jurisdictions, in English, and with payment of filing fees in U.S. currency.

*By: Alan M. Kindred, Esq.
Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl*